

**DEVICE FOR DETERMINING THE MASK VERSION UTILIZED FOR EACH
METAL LAYER OF AN INTEGRATED CIRCUIT**

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ABSTRACT

A device for determining the version of metal mask utilized for producing a given metal layer (Metal3) in an integrated circuit including a plurality of metal layers (Metal0, ..., Metal3), and any modification made to the given metal layer

10 (Metal3) requiring generation of a new version of the corresponding metal mask. The device includes a cell (Cell) integrated into the metal layer (Metal3) including at least a first voltage source (Vdd) for supplying a first voltage level, at least a second voltage source (GND) for supplying a second voltage level, and an output bus composed of at least one conductor wire (S1, S2) connected

15 selectively to one of the first and second voltage sources as a function of the version of metal mask used to produce the metal layer, so as to generate a binary output signal representative of the mask version utilized.